

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 01860 301202Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-04 AID-05 OMB-01 /059 W

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O P 301125Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9130

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 1860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: THIRTIETH DAY OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 1814

1. SUMMARY: SIX VESSELS OF THE LATEST MEKONG RIVER CONVOY ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH EARLY JANUARY 30. THREE OTHERS ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO LEAVE NEAK LUONG FOR PHNOM PENH LATE JANUARY 30. THE KC FIRED MORE ROCKETS INTO POCHENTONG AIR-FIELD. TENACIOUS FIGHTING IS GOING ON IN VARIOUS AREAS AROUND PHNOM PENH BUT WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS FOR EITHER SIDE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO AMMUNITION BARGES, TWO OIL TANKERS AND TWO RICE BARGES ARRIVED IN PHNOM PENH OVER A THREE-HOUR PERIOD EARLY JANUARY 30. TWO RICE VESSELS ARE AT NEAK LUONG BEING REPAIRED AND A THIRD IS BEACHED A SHORT DISTANCE DOWN-RIVER FROM NEAK LUONG. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE THREE RICE VESSELS WILL BE ABLE TO LEAVE NEAK LUONG FOR PHNOM PENH LATE JANUARY 30. OF THE REMAINING TWO CRAFT IN THE ELEVEN-VESSEL CONVOY, ONE OIL TANKER HAS BEEN LOST AND ANOTHER BEACHED BUT IS CONSIDERED RECOVERABLE

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 01860 301202Z

(REFTEL). TO DATE, ALL CIVILIAN CREW MEMBERS ARE

ACCOUNTED FOR AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES REPORTED.

3. THE KC ON JANUARY 30 FIRED FIVE 107MM ROCKETS WHICH LANDED INSIDE POCHENTONG AIRFIELD WITH NO CASUALTIES REPORTED. THREE MORE 107MM ROCKETS LANDED OUTSIDE THE AIRFIELD AND TWO OTHERS LANDED IN THE NORTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF PHNOM PENH. CASUALTIES ARE REPORTED AS FOUR KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED.

4. UNSPECTACULAR, BUT HARD FIGHTING IS GOING ON ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG OPPOSITE PHNOM PENH, ON ROUTE 61 NORTHEAST OF THE CAPITAL AND IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA TO THE NORTHWEST WHICH HAS RESULTED IN NO SIGNIFICANT GAINS FOR EITHER SIDE.

5. FANK HAS REPORTED KILLING 48 SOLDIERS ALONG ROUTE 5 IN THE PURSAT AREA BETWEEN PURSAT AND BATTAMBANG. THE ROAD IS NOW REPORTED OPEN TO LIGHT TRAFFIC (SOME BRIDGES HAVE BEEN DAMAGED) BUT HAS BEEN INTERDICTED BY THE KC SEVERAL TIMES FOR SHORT PERIODS OVER THE PAST WEEK.
DEAN

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